

July 1, 2015

**Can I take a class while on my tourist visa?**

*Q: Currently I have a B1/B2 visa, however I am interested in taking a short term technical training course - a Cisco training certification program in the US. Do I need to obtain a student visa for this purpose?*

A: Many people take short-term courses while in the United States on vacation as they are a great way to improve your skills, make you more marketable in your career, or develop a personal interest or hobby. The type of visa you need is always based on your purpose of travel, and you may hold more than one type of nonimmigrant visa at a time. Enrollment in a short recreational course of study, which is not for credit toward a degree or academic certificate, is permitted on a visitor (B) visa. Study leading to a U.S. conferred degree or certificate is not permitted on a visitor (B) visa, even if it is for a short duration. For example, distance learning which requires a period of time on the institution's U.S. campus requires an F-1 visa. In order to obtain an F-1 visa you will need an I-20 form issued by the institution you wish to attend. You may read more about the various types of nonimmigrant visas by visiting our visa application and information website at: [us-visa-info.com](http://us-visa-info.com)

Generally, each time you enter the United States, you will be questioned by Customs and Border Patrol at the airport. You should tell the immigration official of your plans. As always, you should not stay longer than the amount of time granted by the immigration official.

Please note that the doors of U.S. educational institutions are open to qualified students from around the world, including Jamaica. To find out more about studying in the U.S. please visit our website: <http://kingston.usembassy.gov/studyabroad.html>

Did you know? The Educational Advising office of the American Embassy is located at its offices at 142 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6. Individual and group sessions are held for individuals who wish to study in the United States. Sessions are offered by appointment only.

Good luck with your training certification!

You can find more information about how to travel to the U.S. on our website, [www.kingston.usembassy.gov](http://www.kingston.usembassy.gov) and the website of our authorized service provider at [www.usvisa-info.com](http://www.usvisa-info.com). Keep on top of Embassy news on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/pages/US-Embassy-Jamaica](https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Embassy-Jamaica) and by following @USEmbassyJA on Twitter. We also answer general visa questions on our Facebook and Twitter pages.